AFFORDABLE MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE TURKEY TOUR



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Turkiye First Class Escorted Coach Tour

Duration: 12 days Stay: 11 nights hotels (4-star rating) Travel style: Escorted coach tour Booking code: TURAFG12M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience Email hello@mytravelxp.com

12 Days Affordable Turkey Escorted Coach Tour

About the holiday

The history and wonders of Turkey come to life on this affordable escorted tour!

Visit Istanbul's lively bazaars and great sights, including the magnificent Blue Mosque. Tour the 4000-year-old city of Troy and view the cascading thermal pools at Pamukkale. Enjoy time exploring the dreamlike landscapes of Cappadocia, learn about the founder of the first Turkish Republic in Ankara and much more.

Appreciate the comfort of first class hotels, as well as the convenience and security of travelling with a group. An experienced tour manager looks after you throughout, to make sure you get the most out of the amazing journey!

Why you'll love this trip...

Enjoy the comfort of 4- to 5-star accommodation during the trip There is the ideal balance of included activities & time to explore at your leisure Tour Istanbul, Troy, Pamukkale, Konya, Cappadocia, Ankara & more Flexibility to add optional tours of Ephesus, Whirling Dervishes or a balloon ride Explore Turkiye at a time of the year when there are fewer crowds Travel with an English-speaking tour guide to make the most of your trip

Travel dates

Departs Istanbul on select Mondays & Fridays from October to April

See our website for dates & contact us for travel at other times of the year.

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for travel at other times of the year.

Ask us about adding international flights Call our office on 1300 168 910 for current rates & travel deals.



Escorted tour includes:

- 11 nights First Class accommodations
 - 3 nights Istanbul
 - 1 night Canakkale
 - 2 nights Kusadasi
 - 1 night Pamukkale
 - 1 night Konya
 - 2 nights Cappadocia
 - 1 night Ankara
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel porterage
- 21 meals: 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 9 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

Package excludes:

International flights to Turkey - contact us for the latest airfare deals Airport transfers - transfers can be pre-booked on request for a fee Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary Optional tours & activities - prices listed are a guide & based on pre-booking Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc. Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers Travel insurance is essential Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

Subject to confirmation by hotels, tour company & local operators. Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

For more info, email hello@mytravelxp.com or phone 1300 168 910

Experiences on tour & special highlights:

- Discover Istanbul's extraordinary sights including the Blue Mosque, St. Sophia and Hippodrome
- Tour the classical 4000-year-old city of Troy immortalized in Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*
- Visit Pergamum, a kingdom dating back to the 4th century, home to the Roman center of Asclepion
- View Hierapolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famed for its sacred hot springs
- Visit the Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, founder and first president of the Turkish Republic

Itinerary:

DAY 1, Monday - Arrive in Istanbul

Arrive in Istanbul, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and make your own way to your hotel. Balance of the day is at leisure. Your tour begins with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 7:30 PM. We recommend that you select flights which arrive no later than 4 PM **Overnight:** Istanbul

DAY 2, Tuesday - Istanbul City Tour

Embark on a half day morning tour* of Istanbul, the only city that straddles two continents. Your tour includes the newly renovated Blue Mosque, showcasing an impressive combination of blue Iznik tiles and intricate stonework. Then, visit St. Sophia, the great Byzantine Basilica built in the 6th century, which was later converted to a mosque. Afterward head to Hippodrome, the place where chariot races and competitive athletic events took place during the Roman period. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Perhaps, embark on the *optional* cruise along the Bosphorus, the winding straits separating Europe and Asia. View humble fishing villages and suspension bridges set against the dramatic outline of the Strait. Then to and the Grand Bazaar, where bargaining is an art. This evening, savour dinner together

*Due to traffic congestion the order of sightseeing may change Optional: Half Day Istanbul Bosphorus Cruise & Grand Bazaar (PM) Overnight: Istanbul Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3, Wednesday - Spice Market, Troy, Drive to Canakkale

This morning, head to the lively Spice Market with its unforgettable aromas. Afterward, depart Istanbul and drive towards the city of Canakkale. Proceed to the classical city of Troy. Tour this 4000-year-old city and legendary center of the Trojan War, made immortal by Homer's epic poem The *Iliad*. Arrive and check into the hotel with free time before dinner **Overnight:** Canakkale **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Thursday - Pergamum, Drive to Kusadasi

This morning, drive to Pergamum, a powerful kingdom during the ancient Hellenistic period, and visit the Asclepion, the ancient Roman spa centre. Continue to Kusadasi, a city believed to be the birthplace of Homer, where you will arrive in the late afternoon **Overnight:** Kusadasi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5, Friday - Full Day in Kusadasi

Spend a full day at leisure in Kusadasi. Or, join the *optional* tour to Ancient Ephesus where the Temple of Artemis, one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World," once stood. Walk along the 2000-year-old marble streets; see the Great Theatre, the Odeon, the Fountain of Trajan, Temple of Hadrian, and the Library of Celsus. Visit the peaceful House of the Virgin Mary, believed to be her last residence. Following the tour, visit a leather factory to shop, or return to the hotel **Optional:** Full Day Ephesus & House of Virgin Mary with Lunch **Overnight:** Kusadasi **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6, Saturday - Pamukkale Hot Springs, Necropolis, and Hierapolis

Begin the day with a visit a carpet atelier and watch a demonstration of carpet weaving. Then, proceed to Pamukkale, famous for its mineral-rich hot springs and white terraces. Visit the Necropolis and the ancient city of Hierapolis "Holy City," a UNESCO a World Heritage Site situated atop the Pamukkale hot springs. The Pamukkale hot springs have served as a therapeutic thermal spa since the 2nd century B.C. Tonight, gather together for dinner **Overnight:** Pamukkale **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7, Sunday - Travel to Konya

Today, travel from Pamukkale, the "Cotton Castle," to Konya, a city renowned for its Seljuk architecture and also as the home of the "Whirling Dervishes." Arrive in the afternoon and visit the Mausoleum of Mevlana with its distinctive fluted dome of turquoise tiles. View works of the 13th century leader Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, one of the greatest mystical poets of Islam. The Mevlevi Sufi order was founded to follow his teachings. After exploring the museum, join your fellow travellers for dinner together

Overnight: Konya Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8, Monday - Visit Caravanserai of Sultanhan en route to Cappadocia

Depart for Cappadocia, visiting the magnificent Caravanserai of Sultanhan en route. Afterward, visit Guzelyurt, a fine example of cave dwellings and Greek influences in the Cappadocia region. Following a special home hosted lunch, continue to Nevsehir in Cappadocia. Time permitting, meet children at a local school en route. Upon arrival in Cappadocia, check into your hotel with free time before dinner. Tonight, attend the *optional* Whirling Dervish performance; their captivating mystical ritual connects one in infinite spinning to perfect harmony **Optional:** Whirling Dervishes Performance (PM) **Overnight:** Cappadocia **Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9, Tuesday - Full in Cappadocia

Awake very early to participate in the *optional* hot air Balloon Ride that takes you soaring over the magnificent Cappadocian landscape with its incredible fairy chimney rock formations. Spend the day at leisure to explore on your own. Perhaps, join the *optional* full day tour of Cappadocia that includes the Open-Air Museum in Goreme Valley; see early Christian churches decorated with unique frescoes. Explore the village of Avanos, famous for its beautiful old houses and onyx, and visit a local pottery shop. The tour ends at the fascinating Ozkonak Underground City, built on the northern slopes of Mt. Idis. Return to the hotel with free time before dinner tonight

Optional: Cappadocia Balloon Ride (AM) Optional: Full Day Cappadocia Overnight: Cappadocia Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 10, Wednesday - Ankara, Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk

This morning, depart for Ankara, the capital and the second largest city of Turkey. Upon arrival, visit the Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, founder and first president of the Turkish Republic. Leading up to the Mausoleum, also known as the Anitkabir, lies a vast brick courtyard and monumental avenue lined with NeoHittite stone statues and cenotaphs beneath its colonnades. The most noted cenotaphs within the complex are those of General Ismet Inonu, a close comrade of Ataturk's and his successor, and that of Ataturk himself, a large and highly decorative marble cenotaph, beneath which lies his tomb. Continue to the Anatolian Civilizations Museum - built in two Ottoman buildings located near Ankara Castle. The Museum, being among exceptional museums with its unique collection, exhibits Anatolian archaeological artifacts, as well as artifacts from the Paleolithic Age to the present **Overnight:** Ankara **Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 11, Thursday - Return to Istanbul

Depart for Istanbul, arriving in the early afternoon. Visit Topkapi Palace, residence of Ottoman Sultans housing the richness of 700 years. The jewelled turban crests, silken caftans and priceless Chinese porcelains of the palace bear witness to the grandeur of a bygone era. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Tonight at dinner, bid farewell to your Tour Manager **Overnight:** Istanbul **Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 12, Friday - Depart Turkey

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and make your own way to the airport for your departure flight Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

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MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

Our full set of terms and conditions can be <u>viewed and downloaded on our website</u>, or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

This is a summary in brief for our customers:

- 1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
 - 2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
- 3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
- 4. Around 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
- 5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.
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